

**“Taken from House Report 104-196  
FY 1996 House Report...”**

## **TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATION**

### **OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY/OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

#### **SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

The Committee recommends \$5,000,000 for the Technology Administration's Office of the Under Secretary/Office of Technology Policy. This amount is a reduction of \$8,906,000 from the budget request and is \$4,992,000 below the amount appropriated for the current fiscal year prior to the pending rescission.

The primary mission of the organizations funded under this account is to coordinate the Administration's civilian technology initiative. Considering the program reductions and eliminations made in the Commerce technology programs, the Committee believes that the proposed funding level is appropriate. The amount provided will ensure the elimination of current redundancies in the bureaucracy overseeing NIST technology programs.

The Committee included language in the report accompanying the fiscal year 1995 appropriation for the Commerce Department encouraging the Under Secretary for Technology to continue to integrate the resources of the National Technology Transfer Center (NTTC) in all Technology Administration activities, including plans for the electronic management of the agency's functions and implementation of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program.

The Committee is disappointed that the Technology Administration has not pursued a more substantive relationship with the NTTC in areas of mutual interest. In these times of limited budgetary resources, avoiding duplication and increasing collaboration among existing Federal initiatives is of paramount importance. The Committee therefore expects the Technology Administration to complete an analysis of potential cooperative initiatives between TA and the NTTC to be submitted to the Committee, along with an implementation strategy for each, by November 1, 1995.

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The Committee recognizes that university and Federal laboratories have a traditional obligation to publicly advertise inventions and technologies currently available for exclusive licensing and cooperative research and development agreements (CRADAs). There has long been confusion over the best avenue to present that information to U.S. companies and individuals. The Committee believes that electronic access is the best possible way to alert potential licensees, especially small companies, of the opportunities that exist. The Gateway service of the NTTC has been established and widely used by American industry to electronically access available technologies. The Committee therefore expects the Department to stipulate that use of the NTTC's electronic Gateway service by university and Federal laboratories to advertise technology commercialization opportunities is considered adequate public notice of availability.